

# REPORT

## ON

# NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending the 21st December 1912.

## CONTENTS.

PAGE.

PAGE

I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

Indian Coolies in South America .. ... 1459

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police—

"Preaching of malice against Hindus at Kushtia " 1459  
 Cow-slaughter at Telinipara ... ... *ib.*  
 Dacoities in the 24-Parganas district ... ... 1460

(b)—Working of the Courts—

Babu Harimohan of Jessore ... ... 1460  
 The High Court and the dismissal of the Jagatsi  
 appeal ... ... *ib.*

(c)—Jails—

Suicide of political prisoners in the Andamans ... 1460  
*Ibid* ... ... 1461  
*Ibid* ... ... *ib.*  
*Ibid* ... ... *ib.*

(d)—Education—

An author of a text-book, under an assumed name 1461  
 Middle and Primary schools ... ... *ib.*  
 A Japanese student in the Calcutta Sanskrit  
 College ... ... *ib.*  
 Religious instruction in Government schools ... *ib.*  
 Need of Agricultural education in Bengal ... 1462

(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration—

Improvement of Kalighat ... ... 1462  
*Ibid* ... ... *ib.*  
*Ibid* ... ... 1463  
*Ibid* ... ... *ib.*  
 Improvement of Bhawanipore and Kalighat ... *ib.*  
 Calcutta Improvement—the Russa Road scheme ... *ib.*  
 The Russa Road Improvement scheme ... 1464  
 Preservation of Bengal villages ... ... *ib.*  
 Village life in Bengal ... ... *ib.*

(f)—Questions affecting the land—

Survey and Settlement operations in Midnapore ... 1468

(g)—Railways and Communications, including Canals and Irrigation—

Railway extension in the Mymensingh district ... 1466  
 The re-excavation of silted-up rivers in Bengal ... *ib.*  
 The dredging of the sources of the Bhagirathi ... 1467

(h)—General—

The Islington Commission ... ... 1467  
 "Indian" versus "Native" ... ... *ib.*  
 Vishnu images in Rangpur ... ... *ib.*  
 Leave for *Jumma* prayer ... ... *ib.*  
 Mr. Justice Rahim's successor ... ... *ib.*

III.—LEGISLATION.

The Cotton Gambling Ordinance ... ... 1468  
*Ibid* ... ... *ib.*

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

Nil.



## PAGE.

## V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

Nil.

## VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Bengali youths as Lord Carmichael's	body	
guard ...	...	1468
A Supreme Court at Delhi ...	...	ib.
A rumour about the undoing of the	Delhi	
announcements ...	...	ib.

## PAGE.

## VI.—MISCELLANEOUS—concluded.

The Durbar anniversary ...	...	1468
Ibid ...	...	1469
The celebration in Calcutta of the Viceroy's State		
entry into Delhi ...	...	ib.
Light punishment for a serious offence ...	...	ib.
Dreadnaughts for British Navy from Indian		
Princes ...	...	ib.

## UNSTA PAPERS.

Nil.



( 1455 )

## PART I OF WEEKLY REPORT.

## LIST OF VERNACULAR NEWSPAPERS.

(Corrected up to the 16th November 1912.)

No.	Name of Publication.	Where published.	Edition.	Name, caste and age of Editor.	Circulation.
1	2	3	4	5	6
	<b>BENGALI.</b>				
1	"Bangaratna" ...	Krishnagar ...	Weekly ...	Kanal Lal Das; Hindu, Karmokar; age 35 years ...	1,500
2	"Bangavasi" ...	Calcutta ...	Do. ...	Bihari Lal Sarkar, Kayastha, age 55 years; Hari Mohan Mukherji, Brahmin, age 43 years; Satyendra Kumar Basu.	12,000
3	"Bankura Darpan" ...	Bankura ...	Do. ...	Rama Nath Mukherji, v.L.M.S., Brahmin, age 51 years; Viswanath Mukherji, B.L., Brahmin, age 49 years.	453
4	"Barisal Hitaishi" ...	Barisal ...	Do. ...	Durga Mohan Sen, Baidya, age 35 years ...	600
5	"Banga Janani" ...	Rangpur (Bhotmari) ...	Do. ...	Sasi Mohan Adhikari, Baidya, age 37 years ...	.....
6	"Basumati" ...	Calcutta ...	Do. ...	Sureschandra Samajpati; Hari Pada Adhikari, age 41 years; Mani Lal Banerji, age 36 years.	12,000 to 20,000
7	"Birbhum Hitaishi" ...	Bolepur (Birbhum) ...	Do. ...	Dibakar Banerji; Hindu, Brahmin; age 43 years ...	350
8	"Birbhum Varta" ...	Suri (Do.) ...	Do. ...	Dehendra Nath Chakravarti, Brahmin, age 38 years ...	900
9	"Birbhum Vasi" ...	Rampurhat (Do.) ...	Do. ...	Nil Ratan Mukherji, B.A., Brahmin, age 44 years ...	250
10	"Biswadut" ...	Howrah ...	Do. ...	Nagendra Nath Pal Chaudhuri; Hindu, Kayastha; age 36 years.	1,500
11	"Burdwan Sanjivani" ...	Burdwan ...	Do. ...	Probodhananda Sarkar, B.L., Kayastha, age 31 years ...	500
12	"Chabbis Pargana Vartavaha." ...	Bhowanipore ...	Do. ...	Hem Chandra Nag, Kayastha, age 29 years ...	500 to 700
13	"Charumibir" ...	Mymensingh ...	Do. ...	Baikuntha Nath Sen, B.L., Kayastha, age 42 years ...	1,100
14	"Chinsura Varata-vaha." ...	Chinsura ...	Do. ...	Dinanath Mukherji, Brahmin, age 46 years ...	80
15	"Dainik Chandrika" ...	Calcutta ...	Daily, except on Thursdays.	Hari Das Dutt and Khetra Nath Sen ...	4,000
16	"Dacca Gazette" ...	Dacca ...	Weekly ...	Satya Bhushan Dutt Roy, Baidya, age 46 years ...	80
17	"Dacca Prakas" ...	Do. ...	Do. ...	Mukhunda Behari Chakravarti, Brahmin, age 43 years ...	80
18	"Dhruba Tara" ...	Mymensingh ...	Do. ...	.....	.....
19	"Education Gazette" ...	Chinsura ...	Do. ...	Pandit Nibawan Chandra Bhattacharjee, Brahmin, age 56 years.	1,500
20	"Faridpur Hitaishini" ...	Faridpur ...	Fortnightly ...	Raj Mohan Masumdar, Baidya, age about 72 years ...	.....
21	"Gand Dut" ...	Malda ...	Weekly ...	Krishna Chandra Agarwalla ...	.....
22	"Hindu Banjika" ...	Rajshahi ...	Do. ...	Kasinuddin Sarkar, Muhammadan, Printer, age 41 years ...	125
23	"Hindusthan" ...	Calcutta ...	Do. ...	Hari Das Dutt ...	1,000
24	"Hitavad" ...	Do. ...	Do. ...	Anukul Chandra Mukherji and Sakharan Ganesh Doushkar	20,000 to 20,000
25	"Hitavarta" ...	Chittagong ...	Do. ...	.....	.....
26	"Islam Rabi" ...	Mymensingh ...	Do. ...	Maulvi Nazimuddin Ahmad, Musalman, age about 35 years	700
27	"Jagaran" ...	Bagerhat ...	Do. ...	.....	About 300
28	"Jasohar" ...	Jessore ...	Do. ...	Ananda Mohan Chaudhuri; Hindu, Kayastha ...	500
29	"Jyoti" ...	Chittagong ...	Do. ...	Kalji Sankar Chakravarti, Brahmin, age 47 years ...	1,500 to 2,000
30	"Kalyan" ...	Magura ...	Do. ...	Bisweswar Mukherji, Brahmin, age 45 years ...	500



No.	Name of Publication.	Where published.	Edition.	Name, caste and age of Editor.	Circulation.
1	2	3	4	5	
	<b>BENGALI—contd.</b>				
31	"Kasipore Nibasi" ...	Barisal ...	Weekly ...	Pratap Chandra Mukherji; Brahmin; age 68 years ...	500
32	"Khulnavasi" ...	Khulna ...	Do. ...	Gopal Chandra Mukherji; Hindu, Brahmin, age 61 years	350
33	"Malda Samachar" ...	Malda ...	Do. ...	Kali Prassanna Chakravarti, Brahmin, age 43 years ...	440
34	"Manbhum" ...	Purulia ...	Do. ...	Bagala Charan Ghosh; Hindu, Kayastha; age 41 years ...	About 500
35	"Midnapore Hitaishi" ...	Midnapore ...	Do. ...	Manmatha Nath Nag, Kayastha, age 35 years ...	500
36	"Medini Bandhab" ...	Ditto ...	Do. ...	Deb Das Karan; Hindu, Sadgop; age 44 years ...	400
37	"Moslem Hitaishi" ...	Calcutta ...	Do. ...	Shaik Abdur Rahim and Mozummul Haque ...	4,000 to 5,000
38	"Mubammadi" ...	Ditto ...	Do. ...	Muhammad Akram Khan, Musalman, age 37 years, and Maulvi Akbar Khan.	2,000
39	"Murshidabad Hitaishi" ...	Saidabad ...	Do. ...	Banwari Lal Goswami; Hindu, Brahmin; age 46 years ...	300
40	"Nayak" ...	Calcutta ...	Daily ...	Birendra Chandra Ghosh and Panohkari Banerjee ...	1,500 to 3,000
41	"Navavanga" ...	Chandpur ...	Weekly ...	Harendra Kisore Ray, Kayastha, age 25 years ...	500
42	"Noakhali Sammilani" ...	Noakhali ...	Do. ...	Sasi Bhushan Das, Kayastha ...	200
43	"Nihar" ...	Contai ...	Do. ...	Madhu Sudan Jana, Brahmo, age 43 years ...	380
44	"Pallivarta" ...	Bongong ...	Do. ...	Charu Chandra Ray; Hindu, Kayastha; age 38 years ...	500
45	"Pallivasi" ...	Kalna ...	Do. ...	Sasi Bhushan Banerji, age 47 years ...	300
46	"Pabna Hitaishi" ...	Pabna ...	Do. ...	Basant Kumar Vidyavinode, Bhattacharyya, Brahmin, age 36 years.	500
47	"Praja Bandhu" ...	Tippera ...	Fortnightly ...	Munshi Muhammad Ali Meer, Musalman, age 53 years ...	300
48	"Prasun" ...	Katwa ...	Weekly ...	Purna Chandra Chatterji, Brahmin age 47 years, and Banku Behary Ghose, Goals, age 41 years.	1,618
49	"Pratibha" ...	Berhampur ...	Do. ...	Kamakshya Prasad Ganguly, Brahmin, age 64 years ...	500
50	"Purulia Darpan" ...	Purulia ...	Do. ...	Amulya Ratan Chatterji, Brahmin, age 41 years ...	About 700
51	"Rajshakti" ...	Do. ...	Do. ...	Bagala Charan Ghosh, Kayastha, age 41 years ...	110
52	"Ratnakar" ...	Asansol ...	Do. ...	Satya Kinkar Banerji, Brahmin, age 26 years ...	1,500
53	"Rangpur Durpan" ...	Rangpur (Bhotmari) ...	Do. ...	Braja Nath Basak; Hindu, Tanti; age 53 years ...	200
54	"Rangpur Dikprakash" ...	Ditto ditto ...	Do. ...	Hara Sarker Meitra, Brahmin, age 66 years ...	300
55	"Samay" ...	Calcutta ...	Do. ...	Jnanendra Nath Das, M.A., B.L., Brahmo, age 58 years ...	500 to 800
56	"Sanjaya" ...	Faridpur ...	Do. ...	Rama Nath Ghosh, Kayastha, age about 38 years ...	500
57	"Sanjivani" ...	Calcutta ...	Do. ...	Lalit Mohan Das, late Professor, City College; Sibnath Sastri, M.A.; Ramnanda Chatterji, M.A., Editor, "Modern Review," etc.; K. K. Mitter.	11,000
58	"Samsodhini" ...	Chittagong ...	Do. ...	Kashi Chandra Das Gupta, Brahmo, age 60 years ...	400
59	"Suhrid" ...	Perojpur ...	Fortnightly ...	Ram Chandra Pal, Kayastha ...	300
60	"Subarnabani" ...	Calcutta ...	Weekly ...	.....	.....
61	"Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-Ananda Bazar Patrika" ...	Ditto ...	Do. ...	Rasik Mohan Chakravarti, Brahmin, age 30 years, and Mrinal Kanti Ghosh.	2,500
62	"Siksha Samachar" ...	Dacca ...	Do. ...	Abinas Chandra Gupta, M.A., B.L., Baidya, age 36 year ...	.....
63	"Suraaj" ...	Pabna ...	Do. ...	.....	.....
64	"The Calcutta Advertiser" ...	Calcutta ...	Do. ...	.....	.....
65	"Tippera Guide" ...	Comilla ...	Do. ...	.....	.....



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1	2	3	4	5	6
	<b>BHUGALI—consolid.</b>				
66	"Tippura Hitaishi"	Tippura ... ..	Weekly ... ..	Kamariya Kumar Singha, Brahmo, age 23 years ... ..	700
67	"Vartabaha"	Banaghat ... ..	Do. ... ..	Girija Nath Mukherji, Hindu, Brahmin, age 41 years ... ..	500 to 600
68	"Viswavarta"	Dacca ... ..	Do. ... ..	Abinash Chandra Gupta, M.A., B.L., Hindu, Baidya, age 36 years.	1,000
	<b>HINDI.</b>				
69	"Bajrang Samachar"	Jamora (Gaya) ... ..	Monthly ... ..	.....	.....
70	"Bharat Mitra"	Calcutta ... ..	Weekly ... ..	Ambika Prasad Bajpayi ... ..	About 4,000
71	"Dainik Bharat Mitra"	Do. ... ..	Daily ... ..	Ambika Prasad Bajpayi Hindustani, Brahmin, age 45 ; (2) Panchowri Banerji, age 50, Brahmin.	300
72	"Bihar Bandhu"	Patna ... ..	Weekly ... ..	Mahabir Prasad Bania ... ..	400
73	"Bihar Patrika"	Chapra ... ..	Do. ... ..	.....	.....
74	"Birbharat"	Calcutta ... ..	Do. ... ..	.....	.....
75	"Chandra Vanshiya Rewari Hitaishi."	Dinapore ... ..	Monthly ... ..	.....	.....
76	"Ghar Bandhu"	Ranchi ... ..	Fortnightly ... ..	Rev. Dr. A. Nottrott ... ..	1,250
77	"Hindi Bangavasi"	Calcutta ... ..	Weekly ... ..	Haril Krishna Joahar, Khatri, age 36 years ... ..	1,500
78	"Lakshmi"	Gaya ... ..	Monthly ... ..	Mahadeo Prasad, age 38 years ... ..	300
79	"Marwari"	Calcutta ... ..	Weekly ... ..	B. K. Tebriwalla, Hindu, Agarwalla, age 41 years ... ..	500
80	"Narad"	Chapra ... ..	Daily ... ..	.....	.....
81	"Narad"	Do. ... ..	Weekly ... ..	.....	.....
82	"Siksha"	Bankipore ... ..	Do. ... ..	Pandit Sakal Narayan Pandey Kavyatirtha, Brahmin ... ..	200
83	"Mithila Mihir"	Darbhanga ... ..	Do. ... ..	Pandit Joganand Kumar ... ..	600
84	"Teli Samachar"	Bar ... ..	Monthly ... ..	.....	.....
85	"Tirhut Samachar"	Muzaffarpur ... ..	Weekly ... ..	Sangeswar Prasad Sarma, Brahmin ... ..	400
	<b>URDU.</b>				
86	"Al-Hilal"	Calcutta ... ..	Do. ... ..	Maulana Abul Kalam Asad, Muhammadan, age about 27 years.	1,000
87	"Al Modabbir"	Patna ... ..	Do. ... ..	.....	.....
88	"Al Punch"	Bankipore ... ..	Do. ... ..	Syed Ahsan, Muhammadan, age 40 years ... ..	500
89	"Darul Hukumat"	Calcutta ... ..	Weekly and bi-weekly.	Hafta Bux Ellahi, Muhammadan, age 42 years ... ..	1,000
90	"Durbar Gazette"	Do. ... ..	Daily ... ..	Nawab Ali, Muhammadan ... ..	1,030
91	"Ittihad"	Bihar ... ..	Weekly ... ..	.....	.....
92	"Star of India"	Arrah ... ..	Do. ... ..	Muhammad Zahurul Haque, Muhammadan, age 61 years ... ..	657
	<b>PERSIAN.</b>				
93	"Habul Matin"	Calcutta ... ..	Weekly and daily	Syed Jelaiddin, Shiah Muhammadan, age 61 years ... ..	1,000
	<b>URIYA.</b>				
94	"Garjatbasini"	Talchar State ... ..	Weekly ... ..	Bhagirathi Misra, Brahmin, age 43 years ... ..	In Orissa,
95	"Sambalpur Hitaishi."	Deogarh ... ..	Do. ... ..	Dina Baidhu Gornayak, Chasa, age 37 years ... ..	Do.
96	"Samvad Vahaka"	Balasore ... ..	Do. ... ..	Kasinath Panda, Brahmin, age 37 years ... ..	400
97	"Uriya and Nava-samvad."	Do. ... ..	Do. ... ..	Ram Tarak Sen Hindu, Tamli, age 50 years ... ..	450
98	"Utkal Varta"	Calcutta ... ..	Do. ... ..	Hridikesh Pandey, Kavita ... ..	500
99	"Utkal Dipika"	Outback ... ..	Do. ... ..	Gouri Sankar Ray ... ..	1,200



( 1458 )

*Additions to, and alterations in, the list of Vernacular Newspapers as it stood on the 16th November 1912.*

No.	Name of Publication.	Where published.	Edition.	Name, caste and age of Editor.	Circulation.
1	"Bharat Chitra"	... Calcutta	.. Weekly	.....	.....



## I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

1. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 14th December refers to a recent case in British Guiana in which one Mr. Brushington, manager of a sugar factory, was accused of shooting to death an Indian coolie in the course of a disturbance created by this coolie and his fellow Indian coolies, demanding higher wages. The paper quotes, in this connexion, certain remarks made by the *Venkateswar Samachar* of Bombay regarding coolie life in this colony generally. It is said that while the daily wages of Indian coolies here is 12 annas, rice sells at 10 annas per seer and gram at 2 rupees per seer. So, deducting the cost of food, the daily wages amount to little more than 3 annas. So, Indian coolies should not be tempted to go there by supposed high wages. The same paper also writes that Indian coolies in this Colony are ill-treated in various ways. It is to be hoped that the attention of the Government of India will be drawn to this question of the grievances of Indian coolies in South America.

BANGAVASI,  
Dec. 14th, 1912.

## II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

## (a)—Police.

2. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 12th December writes as follows:—  
“Preaching of malice against Hindus at Kushtia.” Recently, the Musalmans of Kushtia called a meeting at the house of Roshan Khan Chaudhuri with the object of expressing sympathy with Turkey in her present troubles. Both Hindus and Musalmans were invited to attend the meeting, and Maulvi Abdul Kaddas, Secretary to the Anjuman at Kumarkhali, occupied the chair. It is now reported that, forgetting all considerations of time, place and person and the object of the meeting, the President began, in the course of his speech, to support *Bakr-Id* and preach malice against Hindus. It is said that he abused all Government officers, who do not help the Musalmans in the matter of cow-slaughter, by calling them “dogs” and “cheats.” Needless to say that the local Hindus, who had been invited to attend the meeting for subscribing to the Turkish Relief Fund, never suspected that they would be attacked there in this outrageous manner. They were there to show sympathy with the Musalmans. They felt greatly aggrieved and insulted at the President’s speech and left the meeting. Cannot the authorities do anything regarding the Musalmans who dare to preach malice against Hindus in public meetings? If they can, why do they not secure the proceedings of such meetings and adopt suitable remedial steps in the interest of public peace?

SRI SRI VISHNU  
PRIYA-O-  
ANANDA BASAR  
PATRIKA,  
Dec. 12th, 1912.

3. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 12th December has the following:—  
Cow-slaughter at Teliniparah. Various things are being said about cow-slaughter at Teliniparah, and newspapers are publishing many things relating to the meeting which was held in this connection. It is said that the Musalmans were emboldened in their action by certain words which Mr. Ariff spoke at this meeting. But Mr. Ariff now disclaims having said any such words. The public has many things to know about the rumour that Mr. Ariff mentioned the names of Sir William Duke and Mr. Huda at the meeting. By whom and why was this meeting called? What official or non-official Europeans, Hindus or Musalmans, attended it? What subjects were discussed at it, and what were the conclusions arrived at? Was Sir William Duke present at this meeting? If he was, what was his object in being there? Did he or did he not give Mr. Ariff permission to use his name? Did not Mr. Huda call for a report on the affairs at Teliniparah

SRI SRI VISHNU  
PRIYA-O-  
ANANDA BASAR  
PATRIKA,  
Dec. 12th, 1912.



from Mr. Ariff? These are the things which are absolutely necessary for the public to know. The cow-slaughter at Teliniparah has really wounded the feelings of the local Hindus. Teliniparah is a village with a predominating Hindu population, who had never before witnessed cow-slaughter in the locality. They believe that, but for the mention of Sir William Duke's name by Mr. Ariff in the aforesaid meeting, the local Musalmans would never have dared to hurt the feelings of the Hindus in the manner they did. We hope that the authorities will quiet the public feeling in the matter by publishing all informations relating to it.

BANGAVASI,  
Dec. 14th, 1912.

4. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 14th December writes:—

Dacoities in the 24-Parganas district.

The *Musalman* has been complaining that dacoities have been seriously rife of late in the jurisdiction of the Vishnupur thana in the district of the 24-Parganas. Seven eminent Musalmans lately petitioned Mr. Patterson, Assistant Magistrate, on the subject, backing their statements with affidavits. The substance of their complaint was that there was a number of village *budmashes* at work who were responsible for these dacoities and other heinous offences. The police, though informed of the matter, did nothing. Petitions to the Governor and the Commissioner of the Presidency Division, have also proved unavailing. The petitioners also complain that Mr. Patterson did not realise the seriousness of their allegations. Now that the matter has been ventilated in more than one newspaper, should not the Governor or Divisional Commissioner order an inquiry?

(b)—Working of the Courts.

KALYANI,  
Dec. 4th, 1912.

5. A correspondent of the *Kalyani* [Magura] of the 4th December says:—

Babu Harimohan of Jessore.

Some time ago the *Jagaran* wrote that its complaints against Babu Harimohan of Jessore had been sent by the Government to the District Judge for enquiry, but nothing further has been heard of in the matter. A petty officer is lording it over and tyrannising everyone in the district, and it is a pity that Government has not had time to get the matter enquired into by an independent officer. Harimohan's acts are no longer a secret. On the occasion of the recent *Annaprasana*\* of his grandson enormous presents came from the five subdivisions of the district.

\* The ceremony performed at the time of the first eating of rice by a child.

DAINIK CHANDRIKA,  
Dec. 14th, 1912.

6. Referring to the dismissal of the Jagatsi appeal by the High Court, the *Dainik Chandrika* [Calcutta] of the 14th December quotes the *Indian Daily News* and the *Bengalee*

The High Court and the dismissal of the Jagatsi appeal.

to show how the refusal on the part of the Hon'ble Judges to hear the case of the appellants at length has given rise to widespread dissatisfaction. In fact, the Judges ought to have heard all that the appellants had to say, even if it had taken some valuable time of the Court. The High Court exists as an ultimate court of redress against oppressions by Executive officers and miscarriage of justice by lower courts. It does not become such a tribunal to refuse to hear stories of oppression. On this ground, the writer prays Sir Archdale Earle to appoint a Commission to enquire into the Jagatsi affair.

(c)—Jails.

HITAVADI,  
Dec. 13th, 1912.

7. Referring to the alleged suicide of Sarat Chandra Das, a political prisoner in the Andamans, the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 13th December says, that the repeated

Suicide of political prisoners in the Andamans.

occurrence of cases of suicide among the political prisoners in the Andamans has made the public mind uneasy and suspicious. It behoves the Government to reassure the public mind, by taking adequate steps in the matter without delay. It will be well if Surgeon-General Sir P. Lukis, who is going out to the Andamans on a medical mission, is entrusted with an additional mission to enquire into and report on the condition of the political prisoners there.



8. The *Tripurā Hitaisi* [Comilla] of the 11th December also expresses the same view, and says that it is high time that an enquiry was instituted into the condition of prisoners in the Andamans. TRIPURĀ HITAIŚI,  
Dec. 11th, 1912.
9. The *Bangaratna* [Krishnagar] of the 9th December also writes to the same effect. BANGARATNA,  
Dec. 9th, 1912.
10. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 12th December says that, after the occurrence of two cases of suicide and one case of insanity among the prisoners in the Andamans, it will not become the Government to remain silent. The public and the relatives of Sarat Chandra want to know why he committed suicide. SANJIVANI,  
Dec. 12th, 1912.

## (d)—Education.

11. The *Nayak* [Calcutta] of the 13th December refers to a book on composition and lessons in reading selected by Mr. Stark as a text-book in the Burdwan Division, written by a man calling himself a Bose. If Mr. Stark sends for this author and interviews him or gets him identified by a responsible official, he will have a curious experience. There is no author of the name and yet there is a book written by him. He will then find whose workshop it is of which this book has been turned out. It is a strange system this—writing books under a false name. Let us see what steps the authorities take in this connection. We refrain from making further disclosures on this occasion. NAYAK,  
Dec. 13th, 1912.
12. The *Bankura Darpan* [Bankura] of the 16th December, laments the abolition of the old public examinations for the Middle, Vernacular, Upper and Lower Primary schools. It has caused public dissatisfaction. The present system gives inspecting officers power to select meritorious boys for scholarships. But they make this selection not by a general examination at one centre at one time, but by going about from school to school for a period ranging over three or four months. This results in the selection not being strictly fair. For a student who three months previously might have been fit for a scholarship, might possibly in that period of time have become unfit for one, and *vice versa*. Again, if different inspecting officers put different questions at different centres on the same subject, the results are bound to be different. Furthermore, when a candidate is selected for the Scholarship Examination, he begins to monopolise the attention of his teachers, to the serious injury of the educational progress of the rest of the boys of the class. Let Government, therefore, revert to the old system whereby all students had the right of appearing at a common examination, and let a list of successful and unsuccessful candidates be published as the result of this examination, those successful being graded into Divisions or classes. BANKURĀ DARPAN,  
Dec. 16th, 1912.
13. Referring to the announcement made by Mahamahopadhyaya Satis Chandra Vidyabhushana, on the occasion of Lord Carmichael's visit to the Sanskrit College, to the effect that a Japanese student had been admitted into the College with His Excellency's permission, the *Bangaratna* [Krishnagar] of the 9th December asks:— BANGARATNA,  
Dec. 9th, 1912.
- Is it really true that His Excellency has permitted a subversion of the settled practice of the College? Is it after all a fact that any Pandit secured His Excellency's permission to teach Hindu Philosophy to a non-Hindu in the College?
14. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 14th December referring to the recent Conference at the Writers' Buildings on the introduction of religious education in Government schools, says:— BANGAVASI,  
Dec. 14th, 1912.
- The Conference contained more Christians and Brahmos than Hindus. The *Englishman* in announcing the result of its deliberations, says briefly that it has



been decided that Government ought to provide for the imparting of religious and moral instruction to Hindu, Moslem and Christian students, respectively, in mixed schools. We trust Government will make public the decisions arrived at by this Conference. We are quite confident that Government will not make arrangements for the imparting of religious instruction to Hindu boys, without previously consulting the Hindu community.

TRIPURA HITAIISHI,  
Dec. 11th, 1912.

15. The *Tripura Hitaiishi* [Comilla] of the 11th December mourns the apathy of the educated community, the zamindars, and the Government in the matter of improving agriculture in Bengal. Government spends lots of money on linguistic education, but how much does it spend on agricultural education? True, that it has established a few agricultural farms and schools, but their number is so limited as to be quite inadequate to the needs of the country. It is not possible to appoint itinerant teachers of agriculture? If the Government evinces some interest in the matter, the zamindars will surely follow suit.

(c)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

SANJIVANI,  
Dec. 12th, 1912.

16. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 12th December is sorry that the Hindu public is opposing the reasonable proposals of the Municipality to improve the surroundings of the Kalighat temple. There are broad roads round the temples of Jagannath and Siva at Puri and Deoghar, respectively. What harm then can there be in the temple of Kali at Kalighat having broad roads round it? The objection that, if broad roads are made, coaches and other conveyances would come up to the door of the temple may be met by fixing iron pillars at the mouths of the roads to prevent the entrance of carriages. The rumour that it has been proposed to fill up the Kalikunda is not at all correct. In fact, it is the proposal to construct a number of roads, east to west, in the locality inhabited by the Haldars, which has given rise to all this opposition. When the Kalighat road on the north side of the temple was constructed some time ago, there was no opposition. Again, at the time of the construction of this road a portion of the Kalikunda had to be filled up. But to this also there was no opposition. The holy washings of the feet of the goddess still flow into the public drain. On special religious occasions when thousands of pilgrims flock into the locality of the temple, the narrowness of the lanes surrounding it causes indescribable suffering to women and children. Moreover, the insanitariness of the place causes epidemics of cholera on such occasions. It is a pity that, under the circumstances, there should be any opposition to the salutary scheme of improvement proposed by the Municipality.

NAYAK,  
Dec. 11th, 1912.

17. The *Nayak* [Calcutta] of the 11th December pays a warm tribute to Lord Carmichael's beneficial influence on the spirit of the whole administration. The recent action of Mr. Bompas in coming forward publicly to explain the connection of the Trust with the Kalighat Improvement scheme is a proof of this. Mr. Bompas's letter is most reassuring. He is, of course, an intelligent and wise official, and is not likely to make a false move. It now remains for the Municipal Commissioners to do their part in this business. Now, as Mati Babu of the *Amrita Basar Patrika* has said from wisdom born of experience, there is a race of donkeys amongst these Commissioners. So perhaps the best thing to do would be to entrust this matter of improving Kalighat to an independent committee composed of representatives of the Bengali, Marwari, Hindusthani, Madrasi, and the other Hindu communities of Calcutta. There is no doubt that sanitary improvements are needed at Kalighat, the water in the *Adi Ganga* (Tolly's Nulla) must be purified, the silted up tanks in the neighbourhood must be filled up, dilapidated old buildings demolished, and wide roads opened out. But all these things must be done so as not to disturb the privacy of the Hindus, nor to interfere with the Temple and the buildings used for purposes connected



with the worship of the goddess. The first thing to be done is to purify the water of the *Adi Ganga*, for the pilgrims use it for drinking purposes. And it is because this water is poisoned that pilgrims are attacked with cholera after drinking it. Drainage water from the Docks and parts of Bhowanipore and Kalighat falls into this canal, and this makes its waters full of cholera germs. So, the first sanitary improvement for Kalighat is the purification of the waters of the *Adi Ganga*. Dr. Pearse knows quite well that the water in *Adi Ganga* is full of cholera bacilli. And yet he makes no mention of the *Adi Ganga* in his scheme of sanitary improvement for Kalighat. It is all humbug, it merely means using sanitation as a pretext for causing annoyance to others.

The paper concludes with a personal appeal to Lord Carmichael to do justice to the Hindus in this matter, for they do not understand all this hypocrisy about sanitation, which makes a great show in official papers but does no practical good.

18. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 13th December endorses the views expressed by the *Basumati* newspaper on the subject of improvement of Kalighat, *vide* Report on Native papers dated the 14th December 1912, paragraph 24.

HITAVADI,  
Dec. 13th, 1912.

19. Referring to the Kalighat meeting against the proposed improvement of the surroundings of the Kalighat temple, the *Tripura Hitaishi* [Calcutta] of the 11th December says that the agitation will spread throughout India, as the temple is held in very great reverence by all sects of Hindus. Hindus are very sensitive in the matter of their religion, so that the authorities will do well not to do anything which may wound their religious susceptibilities.

TRIPURA HITAIISHI  
Dec. 11th, 1912.

20. The *24-Parganas Vartavaha* [Bhowanipore] of the 17th December fully supports all that the *Hitavadi* has said on the subject of the improvement of Bhowanipore and Kalighat.

24-PARGANAS  
VARTAVAHA,  
Dec. 17th 1912.

21. In continuation of what has appeared before (see Report on Native papers dated 14th December 1912, paragraph 23) the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 13th December writes as follows:—

HITAVADI,  
Dec. 13th, 1912.

The second ground on which the Calcutta Improvement Trust justifies its scheme of improving the Russa Road so as to make it 100 feet wide is that, while the average width of Chowringhi Road is 85 feet the northern portion of Russa Road is only 30 feet wide. A strange comparison indeed. When the Trust speaks of the average width of Chowringhi Road, it ought to take the average width of Russa Road also to compare with it. We do not deny that Russa Road requires widening. The municipality formed a scheme of widening it to 60 feet, and even acquired lands in many places for the purpose. Why does the Trust overthrow this scheme prepared by the Commissioners of the municipality, who surely can claim to possess a better knowledge of the conditions of Calcutta than the newly formed Trust can? Another thing. After the formulation of the Corporation's scheme many people have built houses outside the municipal alignment of Russa Road, with the sanction of the Corporation. Will it not be an act of oppression on the owners of these houses if they are now acquired by the Trust? When Chowringhi Road is only 85 feet wide, we do not see any necessity for making Russa Road 100 feet wide. When the width of the northern portion of Russa Road has been mentioned by the Trust as a proof of its narrowness, ought it not also to have mentioned the width of the southern part of Chowringhi Road which is only 60 feet? The Corporation proposed to widen this portion of Chowringhi Road to 77 feet. Had the Trust desired to widen Russa Road so as to make it similar to Chowringhi Road, it should have proposed a width of 80 feet at its junction with the Suburban Hospital Road. And if the width of 77 feet of Chowringhi Road lying between Circular Road and Theatre Road is not considered insufficient, why should a width of 80 feet be so considered in the case of Russa Road? Is the Trust afraid of widening Chowringhi Road because the St. Paul's Cathedral is by its side?

The third ground on which the Trust supports its Russa Road Scheme, is rush of pilgrims at Kalighat. There are three big roads leading from



Calcutta to Kalighat, namely, Lansdowne Road, Russa Road and Harish Mukerjee Road; but Russa Road is the only convenient road leading from Calcutta to Tollyganj Club. Is it for the convenience of Europeans visiting the Club that the Trust intends to widen Russa Road leaving out the other two roads?

Thus, although the Trust relies on section 39 (c) for its Russa Road scheme, it cannot show any justifiable ground for making the road 100 feet wide. Section 40 makes it clear that the Trust cannot make any street scheme without showing reasonable grounds therefor. Clauses (b) and (c) of section 39 say that the Trust may launch street schemes for purposes of ventilation and scavenging. But the Trust has not announced either of these purposes to be at the bottom of any of the street schemes it has yet formulated. Keeping itself within the bounds of section 40, the Trust can never widen Russa Road to 100 feet, for there is no road under the Calcutta Municipality which has such a great width. It seems that the Trust relies on the words "required" occurring in section 41 for its arbitrary conduct in extending its grasping hand to any amount of surplus land. But we are of opinion that the next section, section 42, deprives the Trust of any such power by containing the word "affected", meaning thereby that only the area actually required for the execution of the scheme should be acquired. Clause (a) of section 41, again, clearly speaks of "the acquisition by the Board of any land in the area comprised in the scheme which will, in their opinion, be required for the execution of the scheme". The Trust can thus acquire only such land as it requires for the execution of its scheme, which is, in the present case, widening Russa Road. Matters would have been different had it been a general improvement scheme. But as it is not so, but merely a street scheme, we do not think that the Trust will be justified in acquiring more land than it requires for actually widening the road.

SANJIVANI,  
Dec. 13th, 1913

22. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 12th December says that there is absolutely no necessity for widening Russa Road to 100 feet. It will be enough if its width is made equal to that of the Chowringhi Road, that is to say 85 feet.

It will be unfair to deprive people of their residential houses by acquiring more land on the western side of the road than will be required to widen it to this extent. Moreover, when the road will not be widened on its eastern side, any acquisition of land on this side will be perfectly unjustifiable. Instead of widening Russa Road to 100 feet, Lansdowne Road and Harish Mukerjee Road should be extended towards the south, in order to facilitate communication between Calcutta and the places on its south.

NAYAK,  
Dec. 16th, 1913

23. Referring to the interest which the Bengal Government is taking in the matter of village sanitation, the *Nayak* [Calcutta] of the 16th December offers the following suggestions to Lord Carmichael:—

His Excellency should keep an eye as to (1) whether well-to-do villagers are or are not keeping the tanks in their possession in proper condition; (2) whether all villagers are or are not keeping the lands surrounding their homesteads free from jungles; and (3) whether the poorer middle-class villagers are or are not sinking wells for getting wholesome drinking water. If His Excellency keeps an eye on these three points, the question of water-supply in Bengal will be greatly simplified. The Bengalis do not know how to live. They are a worthless lot who can only enjoy things placed before them. What a pity it is that tigers have appeared even in villages like Sukchar, Panihati, Halishahar, and so forth.

ANUMATI,  
Dec. 16th 1913.

24. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 14th December writes:—

(1) The soil in the western parts of Murshidabad, Nadia and the 24-paraganas is now such that a tank dug in these places cannot now remain pure for long, as of old. For the Bhagirathi has silted up and the river-beds have been raised, and the flow of water in them is not now so fast as before. The result is, the impure water of the upper starta percolates down into the water in tanks. And in summer, when the water-level in the river-bed goes down, along therewith the water in the tanks also dries up. Thus, the tanks in the villages on both banks of the Bhagirathi are no longer fit for use all the year round. If



they happen to be very deep, they may contain some water in the hot months but such water is always poisonous.

(2) The soil in the eastern parts of the districts of Murshidabad, Nadia, the 24-parganas and Jessore is mostly sandy. One has to dig 10 or 12 cubits deep into it to find water, but because of the presence of an excessive proportion of sand in the soil, small tanks do not retain water for long. Neither can a well be of much use here, unless it is dug at great expense. Big tanks dug here may probably prove of lasting utility. Our idea is that the water-scarcity can be removed if the small streams in the central part of the Bagri country can be re-excavated and canalised.

(3) Water-storage can be successfully attempted in all parts of the Burdwan Division save Howrah and part of Hooghly. And on the banks of the Ajai, the Mayurakshi and other similar streams, deep wells will be found useful. There are many *bunds* existing in Birbhum and Manbhum to facilitate water-storage, which require to be repaired.

(4) In the Rajshahi Division, the sub-soil is of a nature which makes large tanks very serviceable. The presence of large *dighis* like the Debpal *Dighi*, the Mahipal *Dighi* shows how long the life of such tanks can be in this division. If these *dighis* be re-excavated, they will again attract large populations to their neighbourhood.

(5) In the Chittagong and Dacca Divisions, there is no water-scarcity, and these, therefore, require no detailed notice.

In tackling this problem of water-scarcity, Government should not only spend money itself and make District Boards spend, but also encourage rich mufassal people to spend to the best of their ability. Considerations of religious merit formerly used to prompt Hindus to undertake works for providing a water-supply, but the modern generation of Bengalis, blind to such considerations, would appreciate a system of official honours graded to the amount of donations made pays towards the constructions of such works. For example, let a man paying Rs. 20,000 be given a Rai Bahadurship and the right of private *entree* into Government House: a man who spends one lakh is to get a Raja-ship, and so on. Under such a system, water-scarcity in Bengal will be removed in the course of the next 10 years. The life of anglicised Bengalis can be moulded into any shape that our officials like. If these Civilian officials constantly praise country life, it will ere long become a fashion with educated Bengalis to have recourse to such life. This is our idea and let the Government test its truth or otherwise.

We have given up village life for three reasons:—(1) presence of malaria, (2) want of population, and (3) absence of medical aid. There are also (4) the lack of proper communications and (5) the absence of suitable educational facilities. If these inconveniences can be removed, people will of their own accord again go back to the villages. And these are matters in which the zamindars are bound, by all considerations of fairness, to assist Government. We believe if Government really moves earnestly in the matter things will be righted in no time, and village-life in Bengal will be resuscitated. For the middle-class people, town-life is most troublesome. But they have no help for it. If they persist in living in villages, their children die: that is why for their very lives, they have to return to towns and live there in spite of a thousand inconveniences. If the sanitary condition of the villages is improved, the gradual extinction of the Bengali middle class would be arrested, Bengali social life would be revived, and generally it will give an impetus to the national existence. Lord Carmichael, if he can solve this great problem of village sanitation in Bengal, will have earned the eternal gratitude of the Bengali people.

At the same time, we must say that the proceedings of the late Darjeeling Conference on water-supply in Bengal were disappointing. Let the nature of the soil in each part of Bengal be first ascertained by means of the geological survey. Let a list of villages afflicted with water-scarcity be prepared. If it is known how distant a particular village is from a river, what its population, and its present sources of water-supply are, and how much money has to be spent on improving these sources, the problem becomes much easier of solution. Let subscriptions towards this purpose be raised from the zamindars and rich men. There are many villages which cannot be improved and must



be abandoned and new sites chosen near by. Let work begin on these lines. Many will then be encouraged to go back to their ancestral villages. Otherwise, life in Calcutta with its attendant poverty will ultimately bring about the extinction of the middle-class Bengali. Bengalis suffer from two great calamities, malaria and poverty. Now the example of Panama shows that malaria can be eradicated by science. Let this be done in Bengal and then poverty also will disappear.

(f)—Questions affecting the land.

MEDINIPUR HITAIISHI,  
Dec. 9th, 1912.

25. The *Medinipur Hitaiishi* [Midnapore] of the 9th December publishes the following complaints regarding the survey and settlement operations in that district from Mahendra Nath Karan, Assistant Secretary, Coronation

Survey and Settlement operations in Midnapore.  
Memorial Survey School:—

(1) The Amins employed in the survey are mostly people without any sense of responsibility and any expert knowledge, save such as is imparted to them in one or two months to enable them to work with the plane-table. They have no rudimentary knowledge even of facts about the land. Amins employed in settlement work have been known sometimes to be almost ignorant of the alphabet. Employment in settlement work is greatly coveted by these Amins, though it entails great physical hardships, because it brings on a sudden access of money in plenty.

(2) The employment of the Amins on commission instead of fixed salaries is a great mistake. Payment by commission induces these Amins to try and show a large quantity of work in a small period of time, so that they make little use of "off-sets." This makes their maps inaccurate, and involves ruin to many ryots.

(3) The appointment of Uriya and Hindi Amins is a mistake. They are ignorant of the language and the feelings of the population in these parts of the country, and this ignorance may occasionally lead to mistakes.

(4) The indifference of the raiyats born of ignorance, is another great source of mischief. Before the maps are finally issued, copies of the draft maps should be published, so as to afford the raiyats an opportunity of disputing their correctness.

(g)—Railways and Communications, (including Canals and Irrigation).

CHARU MIHIR,  
Dec. 10th, 1912.

26. A correspondent writes to the *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 10th December expressing satisfaction at the sanction recently said to have been accorded by Government, to the extension of the railway line from Mymensingh to Tangail, and suggesting that the alignment of the new line should proceed *via* Madhupore and Gopalpur. There are no roads in this locality and communications are sadly defective, hence a railway through this part of the country will be most welcome. A line proceeding from Bansi *via* Dhanbari, Dhopakandi and Gopalpur to Tangail, would take a direct course and will proceed through the very heart of the Tangail sub-division and will therefore be of great service to the largest number of people possible. Even though Government decides to take the line through the Madhupore jungles, let steps be taken to have a station at Gopalpur.

PALLIVARTA,  
Dec. 10th, 1912.

27. The *Pallivarta* [Bongong] of the 10th December writes that there are two causes mainly contributing to the silting up of rivers and *khals* in Bengal, viz:—(1) the practice of jute-steeping, and (2) the extension of cultivation down to the banks of the rivers. The land under cultivation is easily eroded and washed down into the river bed, which is thus rapidly filled up. If rivers are to be re-excavated these two practices must be stopped. And they can be stopped only by compulsory legislation, and not by any appeals to the sense of self-interest of the people.



28. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 14th December refers to a complaint

BANGAVASI,  
Dec. 14th, 1912.

The dredging of the sources of the Bhagirathi.

made by the *Pratihar* about the dangers to trade and the public health involved by the process of silting up which is going on in the sources of the Bhagirathi. It is true that there is a dredger now at work here, but two or three dredgers should be employed to excavate the entire channel from Jangipur northward to the Padma. It is to be hoped that this suggestion will be adopted by Government.

(A)—General.

29. Referring to the questions framed by the Islington Commission for

The Islington Commission.

DAINIK CHANDRIKA  
Dec. 10th, 1912.

being put to witnesses who are to give evidence before it, the *Dainik Chandrika* [Calcutta] of the 10th December speaks strongly in favour of holding simultaneous examinations in England and India for the recruitment of members for the Indian Civil Service. The writer also holds that, as Indian members of the Civil Service are in no way inferior to its European members, there ought not to be any difference of pay between members recruited in India and those recruited in England. In fact, the writer wants to see the distinction between the Provincial Service and the Indian Service removed.

30. The *Tripura Hitaisi* [Comilla] of the 11th December says that the

"Indian" versus "Native."

TRIPURA HITAISSI,  
Dec. 11th, 1912.

new order of the Government of India directing that henceforward the word "Indian" should be used for "Native" proves the large-heartedness of the present rulers of the country. The writer asks if the mere change of name will remove the scornful attitude of Europeans towards Indians.

31. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 14th December refers to the discovery

Vishnu images in Rangpur.

BASUMATI,  
Dec. 14th, 1912.

of some metallic images of the Hindu God *Vishnu* of rare design and workmanship in a part of the Tajhat Zemindary in Rangpur. Government, it is said, proposes to send three of the images to the Calcutta Museum, and sell the rest to the Hindus. This decision will be emphatically opposed by all Hindus. The Tajhat Zemindars offer to build a temple where all these images may be housed and worshipped. In the face of this proposal the removal of any of the images to Calcutta will hurt the religious susceptibilities of the Hindus, and will be an act of interference with their religion. Let the Archaeological Department photograph the images and publish details of the place whence they were found. This will satisfy all the requirements of students, who, if they wish to see the things for themselves, should then go to Rangpur. All Hindus will strongly resent any action which will divert these images from the purposes of worship for which they were evidently intended. No pious Hindu will approve of such diversion, specially if it is carried out against the wishes of the people in whose lands these images were discovered.

32. The *Visvavarta* [Dacca] of the 6th December is glad as, it says, is

Leave for *Jumma* prayer.

VISVAVARTA,  
Dec. 6th, 1912.

also the entire Musalman community, at the order issued by the Government of India to the effect that all Musalmans employed in Government offices should henceforward be given leave for some time on Fridays for *Jumma* prayer.

33. The *Samay* [Calcutta] of the 13th December writes strongly of the

Mr. Justice Rahim's successor.

SAMAY,  
Dec. 13th, 1912.

unreasonable and unjust demand made by the Moslem League for a Moslem successor to Mr. Justice Rahim of Madras. Protests from Hindus against claims like these are bound to excite ill-will among the two communities, and hence Hindus generally keep silent in such cases. But this silence is encouraging Moslems to put forward unjust requests like these far too often for the patience of their Hindu fellow citizens. It is madness to expect that because one provincial ruler once adopted a policy of the "Favourite wife", all officials will follow the same unjust course.



## III.—LEGISLATION.

NAYAK,  
Dec. 14th, 1912.

34. The *Nayat* [Calcutta] of the 14th December says that Lord Hardinge has earned the gratitude of all Bengal by his Ordinance against cotton-gambling, which had already ruined thousands of persons and families in the country, and which ought to have been suppressed long ago. May God bless His Excellency for the beneficial measure which, though late, is extremely welcome.

DAINIK CHANDRIKA,  
Dec. 15th, 1912.

35. The *Dainik Chandrika* [Calcutta] of the 15th December is of opinion that the Imperial Ordinance suppressing cotton-gambling has been issued at the instigation of Lord Carmichael and thanks His Excellency for it.

## VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

NAYAK,  
Dec. 11th, 1912.

36. The *Nayat* [Calcutta] of the 11th December, in referring to the constitution of the new Body-guard for Lord Carmichael, suggests that some Bengali youths should have been included in the guard.

In the old days, Raja Chandramath and Raja Anandanath of Nattor were attachés on the staff of the Viceroy. Cannot scions of Zemindar families now get similar posts? These youths go astray for want of work to do, but cannot they be kept employed in offices like these? Let Lord Carmichael give our suggestion careful consideration.

HITAVARTA,  
Nov. 29th, 1912.

37. The *Hitavarta* [Chittagong] of the 29th November believes that a Supreme Court at Delhi is bound to come sooner or later. It should be welcomed as furnishing a cheaper final tribunal than the Judicial Committee. The dignity of the Calcutta High Court, hitherto the premier court in India, has been impaired for various reasons during the past few years, and will be impaired still more when Patna gets its own High Court. So there ought not to be any objection to a Supreme Court being set up at Delhi.

NAYAK,  
Dec. 12th, 1912.

38. The *Nayat* [Calcutta] of the 12th December cannot at all believe the rumour, which, it says, is abroad that Calcutta will again be the Capital of India, Delhi being retained as the Capital for ceremonial purposes. It is not possible that a decision announced by the King-Emperor himself should be set aside like this. It will take away, in the eyes of the Indian public, the sanctity which attaches to everything said or done by the King. It will destroy the prestige of the British Government, and people will not be able to attach any weight whatsoever to the words of the officials. The abandonment of Delhi will now create a feeling of unrest and disquiet all over India. Then, again, the creation of Bihar and Orissa as a separate province, has raised new hopes and expectations among the men of that province, which it would be most unstatesmanlike to disappoint. All this we say, though we recognize that the steps taken to modify the initial mistake of Lord Curzon in partitioning Bengal are also mistaken. The separation of Assam from Bengal and the dethronement of Dacca from the position of a Provincial Capital were mistakes; the combination of Bihar, Chota Nagpur and Orissa into a single Province and making Patna its headquarters were also mistakes. And the hurried departure to Delhi before preparations for housing the offices there were complete, was another mistake. Nevertheless, the abandonment of Delhi now would be a still greater mistake, and would entail no end of disgrace. The origin of this rumour probably lies in the idea that Lord Crewe has refused to sanction more money for temporary works at Delhi.

NAYAK,  
Dec. 12th, 1912.

39. The *Nayat* [Calcutta] of the 12th December, the anniversary of His Imperial Majesty's Delhi Durbar, speaks eloquently of the greatness of the occasion on which His Imperial Majesty won the eternal gratitude of all Bengalis by uniting divided Bengal. It is an ever-memorable day on which a current of unspeakable joy flowed in every Bengali's heart, and it was on this day that Bengalis



were led to hope for a generous and noble-minded ruler like Lord Carmichael. Of course, it did not bring to the Bengalis everything they wanted, it did not bring to them their misdirected boys who were suffering indescribable misery in prisons. But still it was a day of hopes, of old hopes realized and new ones created. There is still crime in the country, boys are still being caught for misdeeds, the detectives are still in evidence and the ill-feeling between Hindus and Musalmans is still far from being dead. Nevertheless, the turn which has been given to the policy of administration in Bengal, makes the Bengalis hope that gradually all their sorrows will be at an end. It is a hope created by the message which His Imperial Majesty brought to the Bengalis, and for which they pray for His Imperial Majesty's welfare. The words of hope which His Imperial Majesty uttered in reply to the Calcutta University's address to His Imperial Majesty, have inspired the Bengalis with new life and vigour. They want to live in peace and plenty in their village homes. This was the prayer they had made to His Imperial Majesty, and this day last year His Imperial Majesty told them that it would be granted. This is why it is a memorable day to them. It reminds them of their past struggle and their future hopes.

40. On the same subject the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 12th December says that but for the fact that in the reconstruction of the province of Bengal, many places, which

The Durbar anniversary.

ought to have been included in it on account of their being peopled by Bengalis, have been included in Bihar, the joy of the Bengalis on the anniversary of the Durbar day would have been unbounded.

41. The *Dainik Chandrika* [Calcutta] of the 14th December suggests that on the 23rd instant, the day of Lord Hard-

The celebration in Calcutta of Viceroy's State entry into Delhi.

inge's State entry into Delhi, Lord Carmichael also should hold a Durbar in Calcutta, declared to be the premier city of the East by His Imperial Majesty, to celebrate the reunion of divided Bengal. The occasion, moreover, should be observed as one of public festivity in Calcutta.

42. The *Islam Ravi* [Tangail] of the 22nd November writes :—

Light punishment for a serious offence.

On the 14th November last, Upen Banerjee, the clerk on board the Kaliganj Down Mixed steamer *Sikh*, unjustly assaulted a passenger on board, named Faiyazuddin Ahmed and kicked at a copy of the *Koran*. The Mail Superintendent at Goalundo, having been informed of the incident, found the facts to be true and has punished Upendra by suspending him for 9 months. This is most unsatisfactory. The punishment is not at all adequate to the enormity of his offence. He should be dismissed from service altogether.

43. The *Nayak* [Calcutta] of the 11th December cordially approves of the suggestion that the Indian Princes should jointly subscribe to build a number of "Dread-

Dreadnaughts for British Navy from Indian Princes.

naughts" for the British Navy. These Princes spend money lavishly on extravagant fancies of their own, and they can therefore well be called on to pay something for securing the safety of the Empire. India's naval defence is not properly looked after at the present time. India is manufacturing her own war material and has a fine army. So if these war-ships are to be built by the contributions of the Indian Princes, they should be kept in Indian waters. Let steps be taken to render India independent of English aid as much as possible, during a great war.

RAJENDRA CHANDRA SASTRI,

*Bengali Translator.*

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

*The 21st December, 1912.*

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*SANJIVANI,*  
Dec. 12th, 1912.

*DAINIK CHANDRIKA.*  
Dec. 14th, 1912.

*ISLAM RAVI.*  
Nov. 22nd, 1912.

*NAYAK,*  
Dec. 11th, 1912.



...were not to hope for a general...  
Of course, it did not bring to the...  
...to their minister... have who...  
...that still it was a day of hope...  
...There is still some in the country...  
...the detective are still in evidence...  
...is still far from being...  
...to the policy of administration...  
...that gradually all their sorrows will be...  
...which Imperial Majesty...  
...for the Imperial Majesty's welfare...  
...attested in reply to the...  
...have inspired the...  
...in their...  
...to the Imperial Majesty...  
...that it would be...  
...It remains...  
...house.



**REPORT (PART II)**  
**ON**  
**NATIVE-OWNED ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS IN BENGAL**  
**FOR THE**  
**Week ending Saturday, 21st December 1912.**

**CONTENTS.**

<i>Page.</i>	<i>Page.</i>
List of native-owned English newspapers received and dealt with by the Bengal Intelligence Branch 767	(f) — Questions affecting the land— Nil.
 <b>I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.</b>	 (g) — Railways and Communications, including Canals and Irrigation—
The Balkan war ... 769	The maintenance and improvements of water-ways 773
The peace negotiations ... ib.	Blockage of a public thoroughfare in Naihati ... 774
Mr. Gokhale's mission in South Africa ... 770	
China and the opium agreement ... ib.	 (h) — General—
 <b>II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.</b>	The Public Service Commission ... 774
(a) — Police—	Ditto ditto ... 775
Nil.	Indian students in England ... 776
	Economic conditions of the country ... ib.
(b) — Working of the Courts—	Provincial autonomy ... 777
The Police Court murder case ... 771	Cotton figure gambling ... ib.
Munsiffs of Kishoreganj ... ib.	The Indian National Congress ... 778
Mr. Tyabjee of the Bombay Bar to act as <i>locum</i> <i>tenens</i> to Mr. J. Rahim ... ib.	An independent inquiry into the Jagatshi riot case 779
	The Raja of Narajole's apology to Government ... ib.
(c) — Jails—	 <b>III.—LEGISLATION.</b>
Nil.	Nil.
(d) — Education—	 <b>IV.—NATIVE STATES.</b>
Re-examination at the Calcutta Madrasa ... 772	Nil.
Course lists for primary and middle vernacular schools ... ib.	 <b>V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.</b>
	Nil.
(e) — Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration—	 <b>VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.</b>
Officialism in the Dacca District Board ... 773	Nil.



THE 31st 1915

CONFIDENTIAL

# REPORT

## NATIVE-OWNED ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR

WEST BENGAL

### CONTENTS

1. Introduction

2. The native-owned English newspapers in Bengal

3. The native-owned English newspapers in Bengal

4. The native-owned English newspapers in Bengal

5. The native-owned English newspapers in Bengal

6. The native-owned English newspapers in Bengal

7. The native-owned English newspapers in Bengal

8. The native-owned English newspapers in Bengal

9. The native-owned English newspapers in Bengal

10. The native-owned English newspapers in Bengal

11. The native-owned English newspapers in Bengal

12. The native-owned English newspapers in Bengal

13. The native-owned English newspapers in Bengal

14. The native-owned English newspapers in Bengal

15. The native-owned English newspapers in Bengal



**LIST OF NATIVE-OWNED ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS RECEIVED AND DEALT WITH  
BY THE BENGAL INTELLIGENCE BRANCH.**

[As it stood on 1st June 1919.]

No.	Name of Publication.	Where published.	Edition.	Name, caste and age of Editor.	Circulation.
1	"Amrita Bazar Patrika"	Calcutta	Daily	Kali Prasanna Chatterji, age 48, Brahmin	1,500 to 4,000
2	"Bengalee" ...	Ditto	Do.	Surendra Nath Banerji and Kali Nath Roy.	6,500 to 8,500
3	"Hindoo Patriot"	Ditto	Do.	Srish Chandra Sarbadhikari, age 44, and Kailash Chandra Kanjilal, pleader, Small Cause Court, also contributes.	800 to 1,000
4*	"Indian Echo"	Ditto	Weekly	Kunja Behary Bose, age 45, Kayastha...	600
5	"Indian Empire"	Ditto	Do.	Kishori Mohan Banerji and H. Dutt	3,000
6	"Indian Mirror"	Ditto	Daily	Satyendra Nath Sen	1,000 to 1,500
7	"Indian Nation"	Ditto	Weekly	Nareesh Chandra Sarbadhikari and Srish Chandra Sarbadhikari.	1,000
8	"Mussalman"	Ditto	Do.	A. Rasul and M. Rahman	1,000 to 1,500
9	"Reis and Rayyet"	Ditto	Do.	Jogesh Chandra Dutt, age 61 years	400
10	"Telegraph"	Ditto	Do.	Satyendra Kumar Bose	3,000
11	"Herald"	Dacca	Do.	Priyo Nath Sen	.. ..
12	"East"	Do.	Bi-weekly	.....	.....
13	"World's Messenger" ...	No. 18, Kali Prasad Chakrabarty's Street.	Monthly (English).	Raghu Probir Mitra (Hindu), age 22 years.	100 copies.
14	"Current Indian Cases" (a law paper).	No. 1-1, College Square, East.	Monthly (English).	Monindra Nath Mitter and Brothers (Kayastha), age 32 years.	Ditto.

\* Has not been published for the last six months, and most probably it will not be published again.



LIST OF NATIVE-OWNED KNOLLIN  
BY THE KNOLLIN  
MILLERSON BRANCH

Vol. 2, p. 1012

No.	Name of Native Owner	Address	Value	Remarks
1	John Smith	123 Main St.	100	
2	John Smith	123 Main St.	100	
3	John Smith	123 Main St.	100	
4	John Smith	123 Main St.	100	
5	John Smith	123 Main St.	100	
6	John Smith	123 Main St.	100	
7	John Smith	123 Main St.	100	
8	John Smith	123 Main St.	100	
9	John Smith	123 Main St.	100	
10	John Smith	123 Main St.	100	
11	John Smith	123 Main St.	100	
12	John Smith	123 Main St.	100	
13	John Smith	123 Main St.	100	
14	John Smith	123 Main St.	100	
15	John Smith	123 Main St.	100	
16	John Smith	123 Main St.	100	
17	John Smith	123 Main St.	100	
18	John Smith	123 Main St.	100	
19	John Smith	123 Main St.	100	
20	John Smith	123 Main St.	100	



## I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

1837. The attitude of the European Powers after the success of the Allies

The Balkan War.

will appear, remarks the *Mussalman*, most reprehensible not only to the Mussalmans but to all right-

thinking men, whatever creed or nationality they may belong to. Even Kiamil Pasha, the present Grand Vizier of Turkey, who is not reputed to be a very ardent patriot, characterises the attitude of the Powers as altogether inconsistent and incomprehensible. The Constantinople correspondent of the London *Daily Mail*, in his letter dated the 8th ultimo, says that at an interview with the Grand Vizier he mentioned that the next step in the development of the situation seemed to depend on the attitude of the Powers. In his reply the Grand Vizier said: "A fortnight ago the Powers were warning the Balkan States that absolutely no territorial aggrandisement would be permitted them as a result of war. The *status quo*, they said, would at all costs be maintained. Then war broke out before our mobilisation was complete . . . And now, when we look to the Great Powers to stop the war and arrest the advance of the Bulgarians as they stopped the Russians in 1878, we find they have forgotten their firm intention to preserve the *status quo* and only counsel us to submit and accept the accomplished fact." So, the consistency of the Powers and their intention to dismember the Ottoman Empire are palpable. But what is gratifying to Muhammadans is the attitude of Turkey. The Grand Vizier thus goes on: "That we cannot do. The spirit of the army will not admit defeat till it has struggled to the last." This was about five weeks ago. The situation has changed since then. The position of the Turks has become somewhat stronger. But still there has been a change of another sort. An armistice has been signed and negotiations for peace will soon begin in England. When the Turks were in a most miserable plight, even then the Grand Vizier declared that the spirit of the army would not accept the accomplished fact till it had struggled to the last. Now when the Turkish position is stronger and when the Porte has got time to make further preparations, it would be shocking to the Mussalmans if, unfortunately, the Ministry concludes a dishonourable peace. The paper fully realises all the horrors of war and knows to what further sufferings the civil population would be subjected to, not to speak of the combatants and their near relations, if there be a further outbreak of hostilities in case the negotiations for peace fall through. But for the honour of Islam and the integrity of the Ottoman Empire this may be necessary.

Dr. von Bethman-Hollweg, the German Chancellor, in his speech in the Reichstag said the other day: "We will direct our efforts to maintain Turkey's vitality after the war, as an important economic and political factor." The other Powers, he said, were making similar exertions. He further declared that none of the Powers had any designs to acquire territory at the expense of Turkey. This may be true as, if any of the Powers attempts to acquire any Turkish territory, there may be a European complication and they would avoid it in their own interest. But there is no guarantee that they would not allow the Balkan States to enjoy "the fruits of their victories." On the other hand, responsible European Ministers have declared that the *status quo* cannot be maintained. It is immaterial to Turkey whether her territories be divided amongst the Allies or among the Great Powers. If the German Chancellor is really willing to "maintain Turkey's vitality after the war," he should then see that the Ottoman Empire may not be disintegrated as the result of the war. The Ottomans, on the other hand, must not be too much dependent on foreign sympathy and support, and if they cannot maintain their position by force of arms, they have then no right to exist as a ruling nation.

1838. Practically little or nothing is known, writes the *Bengalee*, about the exact nature of the peace negotiations that are

The peace negotiations.

going on at present. It is tolerably clear, however,

that the negotiations will be of a prolonged character, and that by the time they will have come to an end, Europe will probably be plunged in another war. Diplomatic assurances to the contrary notwithstanding, there is, indeed, reason to fear that a war between Austria and Russia is one of the certainties of the immediate future. Things have proceeded too far in this direction, at

MUSSALMAN.  
13th Dec. 1913.

BENGALIE.  
13th Dec. 1913.



any rate in Austria, to leave room for the hope that the parties are merely indulging in a game of bluff. In the meantime so far as the war, of which now most probably the end is near, is concerned, it is becoming increasingly clear that the reports about Turkish reverses were very much exaggerated. That Turkey came off second best cannot, indeed, be denied, but she was not altogether so hopelessly beaten as the telegrams sent by her enemies had led one to believe. And what is more, at the time when the armistice was signed, the Allies were in a scarcely better position, all things taken together, than Turkey. The reverses sustained by Turkey were for the most part due to the fact that she had very largely to depend upon irregular, ill-trained and ill-disciplined troops. So far as her regular troops were concerned, they had done their best and had given as good an account of themselves as any one had a right to expect in the circumstances of the case. And now that the irregulars have, for the most part, been sent away and the lines at Chatalja are occupied by the regular Turkish troops, who have been strengthened by new arrivals from Asia Minor, so competent an authority as the *Times* correspondent thinks that the Bulgarians will never be able to break through the lines. If the *Times* correspondent is right, a prolongation of the war would clearly be ruinous to the Allies. In the circumstances it seems certain that Turkey will not accept terms worse than what she has a legitimate right to insist upon.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
19th Dec. 1912.

1839. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* remarks that it was a foregone conclusion that Mr. Gokhale's noble mission to South Africa would prove a failure. For, surely he could not be expected to accomplish a feat which was apparently beyond the power of the British Government to perform. One need not, therefore, be disappointed at the speech which he delivered at Bombay the other day, giving an account of his doings in the Transvaal and Natal. The sufferings of the South African Indians, that he described, have been dinned into our ears again and again; there was, therefore, nothing new in what he said. It would be something if Mr. Gokhale could suggest a remedy for putting an end to the trouble of our unfortunate countrymen in South Africa; but he was as helpless there as the mighty Government in England. The only thing he has brought is an "assurance" from the Natal Government that the iniquitous tax of £3 exacted by it from every adult Indian would be abolished. But no one knows better than this distinguished countryman the value of an "assurance" from a foreign Government, when, nearer home, the most solemn and unequivocal promises, sometimes made in the name of God, by the British Crown and statesmen, are sought to be explained away or honoured more in the breach than in the observance. Mr. Gokhale would not have thus lost but risen in the estimation of his countrymen if he had frankly told the unvarnished truth that he did his very best, for which he deserves warm thanks, but could do nothing. The advice of Mr. Gokhale is that further immigration of Indian into South Africa should be stopped. This is good advice, no doubt, so far as intending emigrants are concerned. But what of the thousands of the poor countrymen who are in the meanwhile being subjected to all conceivable forms of humiliation and hardship out there? Is it not desirable that they also should come back? Have they not had enough of the life of South Africa? Here any hardships their poverty might entail would have at any rate the relieving feature of the sympathy of their own kith and kin, and at least humane treatment. No amount of earnings they eke out can, in fact, compensate for the cat-and-dog-like treatment they are coming in for in the land of their adoption. Moreover, this country will be distinctly the gainer by the return to it of these heroic sufferers who will, so to say, leaven the dead millions of their country. And above all, is it meet that a God-sent man like Mr. Gandhi should vegetate in South Africa for the sake of a lakh and a half of people, when India is sorely in need of a selfless and powerful leader like him to raise her up from her fallen condition?

BENGALURU,  
19th Dec. 1912

1840. The *Bengalee* observes that while Sir John Jordan, British Minister in China, has gone so far as to warn the Chinese Government that unless assurances are immediately forthcoming that China intends to observe the Opium Agreement, he will be compelled to advise his Government that his remonstrances have been ineffective, the *Central China Post* says, on the strength of seventy-five signed



statements of missionaries in twelve provinces regarding opium suppression, that the general trend of evidence is that the new regime, where well established, is more thorough than the old. So thorough in fact is it, that in four Provinces the death penalty has in several instances been inflicted for offences against opium laws, and Szechuan, Honan, Anhwei, and Cheking are using troops freely to prevent poppy cultivation. It is only in one province, Kweichow, that poppy is being more largely cultivated than before, the reports from all other provinces being favourable. Hunan is virtually clear of opium crops, and the suppression of the sale and smoking of opium is more severe than ever, while Ichang, which formerly had enormous opium export, now reports none. Much has been made in a section of the English press of the reported recrudescence of opium-growing in some parts of China. The *Post* significantly affirms, by way of explaining this report, that the "declarations are based on the crop harvested last spring, when the country had scarcely recovered from the revolution." In the face of these statements, made on the basis of reports of missionaries who are doubtless disinterested observers in this case, it is somewhat surprising that the British Minister in China should have gone the length of administering a warning to China. What further evidence of China's determination in the matter does he want than what is afforded by the fact that in some cases the Government has actually inflicted the death penalty for a violation of opium laws? The journal earnestly hope the British Minister in China will avoid even the appearance of creating an embarrassing situation for China at a time when she needs the sympathy and support of civilised mankind in the vigorous efforts she has been putting forth to set her house in order and to modernise her institutions.

## II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

### (b)—Working of the Courts.

1841. It will be seen, writes the *Amrita Basar Patrika*, from the report of what is known as the Police Court murder case, that the three accused have been sentenced to death by Mr. Justice Carnduff. The Mosaic law is eye for eye, tooth for tooth; but, in the present case, is witnessed the extraordinary phenomenon of three men being hurled into eternity for the murder of one. Calcutta has not seen for many years such a unique and shocking spectacle of a number of men being sent to the gallows to expiate for the murder of one. It is quite possible that the accused perpetrated the heinous offence attributed to them in a manner which was devoid of any extenuating circumstances. All the same the majesty of the law would have been maintained inviolate if they had been sentenced to transportation for life, thus sparing the public the additional shock of a triple execution.

AMRITA BASAR  
PATRIKA,  
16th Dec. 1917.

1842. There are only three Munsifs, writes the *Herald*, at Kishorganj, but cases are so numerous that they cannot cope with their work. The second and the third Munsifs having no Small Cause Court powers, the first Munsif alone has to try all Small Cause cases of the subdivision. Although the respected first Munsif is regarded as a man of remarkable activity, and although he works daily from 11 A.M. to 7 P.M., still he can, by no means, finish all the cases in time. Sometimes he cannot even afford to lose a moment, even to call a pleader, and has to decide cases often according to his own judgment, without calling or hearing the pleader, if the pleader be absent at the time when he takes up the file. It is a common grievance that the pleaders often get no opportunity to plead their cause. Will the Government see its way to add one more Munsif there?

HERALD,  
16th Dec. 1918.

1843. There is a lot of home-truth, writes the *Amrita Basar Patrika*, in a letter, from a Bihar paper, over the pseudonym of "Fairness." One recent instance of such "glaring contrasts" is the appointment, just announced, of Mr. Tyabjee of the Bombay Bar to act as *locum tenens* to Mr. J. Rahim during the latter's temporary incumbency as member of the Public Service Commission. Fancy the grotesqueness

AMRITA BASAR  
PATRIKA,  
16th Dec. 1918.



of the situation. Mr. Rahim had to be imported all the way from Calcutta to fill up the original vacancy in the Madras High Court. And for filling up even this temporary vacancy caused by the deputation of the latter, not a single indigeneous legal talent could be picked out from the Madras Bar—for does it not labour under the supreme disqualification of containing no suitable Muhammadan candidate? The rule seems to be to import a Muhammadan from thousands of miles rather than appoint a qualified Hindu from within the province, for the primary object is to appoint not a Judge to administer law and dispense justice, but a Muhammadan to keep the balance of racial elements in safe poise. When such is the guiding policy in the department for the administration of justice, which should be scrupulously kept outside the zone of political expediency, what is it expected to be in the others?

(d)—Education.

MUSSALMAN,  
13th Dec. 1912.

1844. From Dacca a correspondent writes to the *Mussalman* as follows:—  
Re-examination at the Calcutta Madrasa. "May I encroach upon a little space in the valuable pages of your paper—doubly valuable in the time of national catastrophe—in connection with the re-examination in the Calcutta Madrasa? It is said the questions of the Madrasa Final Examination, as if possessed by Rosalind's woman's wit, leaked out again and again. They are said to have been out in time of test, and were re-set simply to get out again before the final examination; like an eel they won't remain in the sack.

"A letter from Calcutta to Dacca or Chittagong requires less than a day, but the selfsame questions which were out probably a month and undoubtedly a few days before the final, were sent for the examination of the Dacca and Chittagong students whose unusually good results of this year are out a month ago, while the Calcutta and Hooghly students—poor scapegoats—though examined in questions third time set then and there, shall have to re-appear, as we hear, some giving up their studies (English), some resigning their posts, and others otherwise engaged and that too after a year—a kind of justice best becoming the International Law of the day! What the gain for this extra loss of time and money, waste of energy and lots of other troubles? Neither B.A. or M.A. degrees nor any other useful diplomas, but a certificate that alone can neither improv. their mundane prospects nor can ever shield them in some quarters from the vulgar stigma of 'Moollah.'

"Under these circumstances I hope the authorities will be kindly disposed to order the examination, a strict examination rather, of the papers of Calcutta and Hooghly students and pick out the culprits, which I think is easy for an experienced examiner, and specially so if the Maulvis examine the papers of their own students, comparing them with the results of the monthly examinations, thus sparing the innocent from innumerable troubles."

TELEGRAPH,  
14th Dec. 1912.

1845. The *Telegraph* writes that the course lists for primary and middle vernacular schools in both Presidency and Burdwan circles, is published in the present *Calcutta Gazette*. It is evident that the best books available have been selected. The journal congratulates both the Director and the Presidency Inspector on the lists that they have issued, though doubtless the delay that has unfortunately occurred is likely to give great trouble to many authors and publishers owing to the shortness of time during which to get ready many thousands of their books. There is another point to which the paper would invite the attention of the Director. When Bengal was partitioned, the new province under its Director had a system which was quite separate from what obtained in the old. A new syllabus was prepared, and so great was the zeal of the Government in the matter of creating a breach between the two sister provinces that it was suggested that the language of Eastern Bengal was not identical with that of Western. A more undesirable state of things could hardly be conceived. But bad as this course was, now that the partition has been annulled and Bengal has been re-united, the same education should be imparted. The Education Department is one, but two distinct syllabuses are in force; and while the one for the Western districts



is almost unexceptional, the other is very unsatisfactory. The difference is very marked in the matter of text-books; and the position is anomalous in all conscience. The journal therefore earnestly requests the Hon'ble Mr. Küchler to go into the question and bring up the standard of Eastern districts to that of the Western. He would confer a blessing on the whole province by doing this. If there be no good authors and text-books in Eastern Bengal, those in use in this part of the presidency should be introduced there.

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

1846. The *Herald* wishes to draw prominent attention of Lord Carmichael's Government to what appears to be a typical, instance of officialism, if nothing worse, in the proceedings of the Dacca District Board. It would appear that the District Magistrate wanted the newly built house intended as quarters for the European District Engineer to be furnished with electric installation at a cost of Rs. 2,000, which he argued might be had by reducing allotments for roads and bridges. Of course the District Magistrate gained what he wanted, but the way he obtained it throws a fierce light on the way how things are managed under the official Chairman. And it reveals a phase of the official mind in which the funds of the District are considered to be more for the luxury of a European District Engineer than for the real and crying wants of the people. How sadly does this contrast with Lord Ripon's anxious endeavours to save local bodies from undue official interference? Lord Ripon's Government, in a resolution of the Financial Department, of 1881, clearly laid down that official Chairman should be avoided as far as may be possible. In this resolution it was anticipated that friction might arise between the official Chairman and independent non-official members; and it was suggested that the former would be in a far more dignified and influential position if he acted from outside as arbiter between all parties, and not as leader of any. In the present instance the allegations against the conduct of those who would have electric installation by curtailment of the fund for roads and bridges are serious in all conscience; and any words of comment are hardly needed. The paper has no doubt the local Government will not fail to take proper notice of the scandalous proceedings in the Dacca District Board.

HERALD,  
14th Dec. 1911.

(g)—*Railways and Communications, including Canals and Irrigation.*

1847. The *Indian Mirror* cannot emphasize, too strongly and too often the sentiment of Rai Bahadur Sitanath Ray at the last annual meeting of the National Chamber of Commerce that "a direct canal from the Hooghly to East Bengal would be a great blessing, not only to the jute trade, but to the whole trade with East Bengal. If there had been a direct canal, the shortage of waggon supply would not have affected them so much." There should be one canal to Calcutta from Banbah (Rampore) *via* Krishnagar or Ranaghat, another from Madaripur *via* Jessore, a third from Khulna *via* Basirhat, and a fourth from Dacca or Narayanganj to a point opposite to Goalundo. Railway traffic will never prove so cheap as river traffic for bulky goods. Improvement of waterways is absolutely necessary to keep pace with the increase of traffic of every description. In case the river communication of Calcutta with East Bengal be not attended to at once, much of the traffic will be forced to Chittagong, and it is not so very easy to divert the course of traffic, once it has been established. Like the extension of railways, improvement and maintenance of waterways should be an Imperial—at any rate the provincial—concern. The District Boards are too tiny bodies to be able to deal with them.

INDIAN MIRROR,  
19th Dec. 1911.



BENGALUR,  
20th Dec. 1912.

1848. The *Bengal* refers to a memorial which has been addressed to His Excellency the Governor by over 900 residents of Naihati and the adjoining villages in the subdivision of Barrackpore, 24 Parganas, complaining that "the public thoroughfare, running from the villages in the east, across the Eastern Bengal State Railway lines at the Talpukur level crossing, to the town of Naihati has been completely blocked by the railway for the last two months or more." "The block," the memorial says, "has been caused by the recent expansion of the railway yard at this point, where goods trains are almost continuously stabled, sometimes in two rows or more, and the position has been rendered more acute by the removal of the over-bridge which formerly provided a passage for foot-passengers." This action of the railway authorities has had the effect, the journal understands, of crippling the trade, practically shutting out the supply of fish and vegetables and more particularly fodder for cattle, of depriving the people living on the east of the railway lines of the advantage of obtaining medical aid from the town, of denying to them the privilege which they have enjoyed for ages past of carrying dead bodies to the holy river for purposes of cremation, and of suspending the *mether* service of a crowded town like Naihati practically for days together at times. All these are serious grievances, and some of them are so very serious that the journal wonders that they should have been permitted to continue so long. The paper learns from the memorial that the memorialists have tried their level best to obtain redress from the local authorities, but hitherto without success. It is, therefore, that they have now appealed to His Excellency the Governor for such action as His Excellency may deem fit. The journal associates itself with them in this appeal, and earnestly hopes that His Excellency will direct a removal of the grievances from which the memorialists suffer.

(h)—General.

BENGALUR,  
13th Dec. 1912.

1849. In the course of an article on the Public Services Commission, the *Bengal* reproduces the following from the *Englishman*:—"It is now sought to ascertain whether those who are asked to give their views consider that any radical change is necessary either in the system of recruitment, the subjects of examination, the age limit, and the systems of training and probation and other cognate matters. Incidentally, the question of holding simultaneous examinations in England and India is again raised. We, and all who have the best interests of India at heart, would view the holding of simultaneous examinations in England and India with disfavour. The mere passing of an examination would result in the ranks of the Indian Civil Service being flooded by Indians, the effect of which would be to lower the high standard of that Service. At present India's best men go to England to present themselves for this examination: best by birth, education, and social standing. They have an opportunity of expanding their minds and social ideals by contact with the culture of the West, which would be lost were simultaneous examinations introduced. There may be room for improvement in a separate method of recruitment for the judicial branch of the Indian Civil Service; but that would, as a natural corollary, be followed by a separation of the judicial and executive branches of the Service, for which there has been a clamorous demand in this country by a certain class of political agitators. It is open to those candidates having a judicial turn of mind to take up the law as a study during their probationary period at home, while, on arrival in this country, they have the choice of electing for the judicial or executive service. That being so, the necessity for a separate method of recruitment for the judicial branch of the Indian Civil Service disappears."

The journal entirely dissents from the views here expressed by the Hare Street journal. For the *Englishman* to claim the right of speaking on behalf of "all who have the best interests of India at heart" is absurd. And when this right is claimed only to misrepresent the most clearly expressed views and sentiments of the Indian community, the position becomes altogether



ridiculous. If there are two reforms in regard to which there is a perfect unanimity of opinion among all who have the best interests of India at heart, they are the holding of simultaneous examinations for the Indian Civil Service in England and India, and the separation of judicial and executive functions. In regard to both of these the Indian press and Indian public men have spoken out with one voice. There is not a public association, representing any section of the Indian community in any part of the country which has not at one time or another urged both these reforms, while the Indian National Congress, India's greatest national institution, has year after year recorded emphatic and unanimous resolutions in favour of these reforms. And these are the reforms against which the *Englishman*, speaking on behalf of "all who have the best interest of India at heart," asks the authorities to set their faces! One of them, it is said, would be prejudicial to the best interests of the country, while the agitation in favour of the other is dismissed as a clamorous demand. Since when has it become the function of a "representative" to misrepresent in this queer and outrageous fashion? As regards the arguments advanced by the *Englishman*, they are not worth a moment's serious consideration. There is not one among them which has not been repeatedly examined and repeatedly shown to be worthless and entirely lacking in force and validity. The *Bengalee* earnestly hopes the Public Services Commission will record their opinion in favour of both these reforms. That the last Public Services Commission did not do so was a matter of grievous disappointment. Since then public opinion in favour of these reforms has grown both in volume and intensity, and as regards one of them a resolution in favour of it was carried in the House of Commons, which would have been given effect to had it not been for the hostile attitude of the majority of the Local Governments in regard to it. It would be a very great pity if the blunder of 1883 were repeated in 1912.

1850. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* writes:—"Let us reproduce the greatest objection of the last Public Service Commission to the holding of an open competitive Civil Service in India which, we doubt not, will be made much of by the opponents of the measure on the present occasion also. It is that 'an open competition in India for the Covenanted Civil Service would operate with inequality, excluding altogether some important classes of the community, while giving undue advantages to others.' This means, we need hardly point out, that the Hindus would capture all the posts and the Mussalmans would be nowhere."

"The cry of this old danger—the Mussalmans—was raised not only by the Public Service Commission of 1886-87, but also by the European community after Mr. Herbert Paul's resolution was carried in the House of Commons in 1893. And it will, of course, be raised over again before the forthcoming Public Service Commission to prove the unsuitability of a competitive examination in India. Said the *Pioneer* in connection with Mr. Paul's resolution in 1893: if the examination were held here along with the one now held in England, then the Bengalis would carry 'all the prizes, and the feelings of the Mussalmans would be those of the bitterest of disappointment coupled with resentment against the Government.'

"The Mussalmans, according to the *Pioneer*, 'were three leagues behind the Bengalis.' Let the Mussalmans, said the Allahabad paper, make up these three leagues and then, and not till then, could the examination be held in India. The idea was no doubt a curious one, and yet it would be brought forward again and again. But how to keep the Bengalis and other Hindu communities standing still while the Mussalmans would exert themselves to make up the distance? And would it not come to this, that the Mussalmans, after making up these three leagues, might yet find the Bengalis the same distance ahead of them? The idea of the so-called European friends of the Mussalmans, if carried out, will thus never make it possible for the Government to hold a competitive Civil Service Examination in India.

"But is it the custom in civilized countries to put off a reform till all sections of the community have attained a uniform standard of efficiency? This Mussalman difficulty can be brought forward against every possible reform in India. It is true that there are diverse races in India. It is also true that these diverse races are not in the same state of civilization and enlightenment. Whenever, therefore, any reform is sought to be introduced, it

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
18th Dec. 1912.



cannot be possible to make it equally applicable to all. This is not only true of India, but of every other country in the world. And because you cannot make a reform equally beneficial to all, you will stay all reforms on that ground! Surely this is absurd.

"It has been proved by experience that the expansion and reformation of the Legislative Councils have benefited the Mussalmans along with the Hindus. In the same manner there cannot be any doubt that by the measure of simultaneous Civil Service examinations, the Mussalmans will get at least some prizes which they do not possess now. Indeed there are a good many Mussalmans who are fully the intellectual peers of the Hindus. There are Mussalmans, again, who not only resent the idea of their intellectual inferiority to any other race in India, but also think that their community will never rise if they have to look up to the patronage of the Government for their advancement. The assertion is thus meaningless that in a literary race the Mussalmans will always be left behind by the Hindus.

"The idea of those who are opposed to the establishment of an open competitive examination in India is that, since there is a chance of the Hindus and the Mussalmans quarrelling over the prizes if such an examination is held, the best arrangement, therefore, is for the Europeans to appropriate them all for their own benefit! Indeed, if they shed tears for the Mussalmans it is not due to an excess of love for the latter, but because they may thereby eat all the loaves and fishes of the State."

REIS AND RAYYET,  
14th Dec. 1912.

1851. The *Reis and Rayyet* writes that the long and short of the matter appears to be that a section of the Indian student community in England resents control of any kind. The repugnance of student to be placed under control is not an uncommon phenomenon even in this country. The desire to roam about without restraint and to give free play to fancy and imagination is dear to the heart of the average school-boy. The absence of parental control in a foreign land, is apt to intensify this desire. The paper takes the agitation against the Advisory Committee as due to juvenile prejudice against discipline and control. What is surprising, however, is that some Indians who have been long enough in England to be able to understand the question better than newly arrived school-boys, should lend their support to the agitation. The movement set up by Mr. Parikh and others will, it is hoped, receive no support in India. The paper is pleased to learn that the Oxford University Indian Club has declined to participate in the movement.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
14th Dec. 1912.

1852. A correspondent from Chinsurah, under the *nom-de-plume* "A Fact," writes to the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* as follows:—  
Economic condition of the country. "May we in the name of the general public request the favour of your drawing, of course most respectfully and humbly, the attention of our excellent Governor Lord Carmichael to the present sad and deplorable economic condition of our country? As is well known, the prices of food articles of all sorts, that of salt excepted, have risen of late extravagantly high, causing thereby untold hardship and inconvenience to the lower and poorer classes of the people, and especially those living in the remote villages. We have learnt on good authority that such people sometimes do not get two meals a day. What a contrast, however, between now and the days gone by! Fifty years back, the price of a maund of good rice was a rupee, or even less at the highest, but at the present day the same is being sold for Rs. 6 or more per maund. Similarly the prices of all other food-stuffs such as *ghee*, mustard oil, flour, milk, etc., including vegetables, have risen double, treble and sometimes quadruple. Not long ago, good milk sold from ten to twelve seers for the rupee in cities and towns, but it now sells four seers for the same price, and that is not even pure and unadulterated. Hence what a sad and lamentable change has come over the present economic condition of the country; otherwise the people are happy and comfortable on the whole. It is a fact which nobody can deny that water is as essentially necessary for the preservation of life as food. We are indeed grateful to our excellent Governor for his evincing so much interest and sympathy in the matter good of drinking water being supplied to the poor people living in the rural areas of Bengal, but at the same time does it not behove our parental Government to adopt such measures as are likely to lessen the prices of food-stuffs, thereby enabling



His Gracious Majesty's poor Indian subjects to keep their bodies and souls together? This sad state of things leads to the question what may be the cause or causes of the extraordinary dearness of food articles and the consequent increase of wages of labour—a thing unknown before? Now it rests with the Government and not with the people to take up this difficult subject and find out proper remedies for the alleviation of the hardship and suffering under which they are smarting. We are told that Government has already appointed a committee called "Prices of food articles committee" to enquire and report on the actual state of things but up to date the public are not aware of what has been done, at least practically, by that committee, composed as it is of some experts on the subject. The reader may remember not long ago a Commission called "Fishery Commission" under the superintendence of Mr. (now Sir) K. G. Gupta was appointed by Government with the ostensible object of cheapening the price of fish for the benefit of the fish-eating public. But we now behold to our disappointment that the price of fish has since risen treble if not more. We are told fish sells now 8 days at 14 annas a seer which was 4 to 5 annas before, and the reader can well imagine what it means for people using fish daily, i.e., morning and evening. In closing, we earnestly hope and pray that His Excellency our good Governor will be graciously pleased to hold a sort of conference like the one held the other day at Darjeeling for the purpose of steps being taken to supply pure drinking water to the poor villagers, with the object of affording relief to those who are extremely suffering all over the country from the unprecedented dearness of eatables of all sorts."

1853. Referring to the representations made by certain public bodies in Calcutta, the *Bengalee* reproduces an article from the *Empire*, in its issue of the 12th of December, which in condemnation of the charges writes as follows:—"The Government might have met these representations by explaining that these inconveniences would be more than neutralized by the increased autonomy foreshadowed in its despatch of August 1911; but it could not do this because it had already repudiated any intention of conceding autonomy to the presidencies. Thus it alienated not only the powerful commercial interests centered in Calcutta and ramifying to every part of India, but the nationalist feeling which it had captivated by means of the bait of autonomy."

It is not strictly accurate to say that the Government has repudiated any intention of conceding autonomy to the presidencies. No doubt the Secretary of State did so, but far greater importance is attached to the pledged word of the Government of India, used on an historic occasion and in a memorable despatch, than to any repudiation of it made by an individual official, however high his position. And in any case India will not allow the authorities, whether in India or England, to turn their back upon the policy enunciated in the great Delhi despatch. Self-government within the Empire was the goal of political aspirations long before the Government penned their despatch, and it goes without saying that it would have continued to be the goal even if that despatch had never been written. The journal values the despatch not because it promised something which had never been dreamt of, but because it promised partial fulfilment of an aspiration which was and is deep-rooted in the heart of every patriotic Indian. It is scarcely conceivable either that a promise of this kind will be forgotten by the people of India or that they will allow the Government of India to forget or to sleep over it. There is not the least doubt that in the great struggle for constitutional liberty which will be continued with increasing vigour in the coming years it will be referred to again and again and will serve as a sort of guarantee that success is bound to follow.

1854. The Government of India, writes the *Bengalee*, have issued an ordinance prohibiting and declaring illegal gambling on cotton figures. The power of issuing ordinances has not always been rightly used in the past, and it has been a painful duty, on more occasions than one, to adversely criticise ordinances issued by Government. The ordinance issued in the present case happily stands on a very different footing. In this case fault is found with the Government not for issuing the ordinance, but for not having issued it earlier. It ought in fact

BENGALIAN,  
15th Dec. 1912

BENGALIAN,  
15th Dec. 1912.



to have been issued months ago, when the High Court declared, in setting aside the conviction and sentence in a test case, that cotton-gambling was not gaming within the meaning of the Police Act and the Public Gambling Act. Public opinion had from the outset called upon the authorities to take all necessary steps to put down the evil, which was every day assuming more and more serious proportions. It is true that Mr. Justice Holmwood had expressed the opinion that the police might suppress cotton-gambling as a sort of public nuisance. But evidently the police felt that that course was beset with difficulties. In the circumstances it seems inexplicable why the Government should have made such a long delay in issuing the ordinance. The mischief that cotton-gambling has done is well known, and it is a great pity that this mischief should have been allowed to be perpetrated when the issue of an ordinance could have effectively prevented it.

HERALD,  
15th Dec. 1912.

1855. The *Herala* believes that it was Sir Romesh Chandra Mitra who,

The Indian National Congress.

replying to the rebuke of "microscopic minority" applied to the Congressmen, contended that the educated men in all countries were the natural leaders of the people, and the Indian National Congress had therefore every right to speak in the name of the people and to be heard on their behalf. How far this claim has been truly admitted matters little. Suffice it to say that the hostile attitude of those who sought to kill the Congress by giving it a bad name has begun to change into sincere patronage, if not into actual support and co-operation. The days of distrust, as Sir John Meston observed the other day, were now over, and it has been openly acknowledged that the officials and the Congress are working together for the welfare of the Indian people. Indeed, a really good fight has been fought by the Indian Congressmen during the last quarter of a century. Now after the decent success gained in the ground-work it behoves all builders of the national edifice to take a due measurement of the progress it has hitherto made in the direction of the popularisation of the Congress programme. For admitting what force there is in the contention referred to above, the fact remains that one of the main works of the Congress must be the education of the people in their political rights, as also the bringing together of the different races and sects in this land under the banner of a common Indian nationality. Surely, the above object can never be well served by confining the Congress to the educated few. And yet it is this object of the Congress more than anything else which commends itself to Indians of all shades of political opinions and beliefs.

It may be argued that in the present low state of education in this country it is idle to expect that the bulk of the people will take any intelligent interest in the Congress programme. That the colossal ignorance prevailing in the country has been a great block in the way of all efforts for the political advancement of its people none can deny. Then there is the separatist movement among the Muhammadans which has made it practically impossible for the Congressman to carry his mission to a very large section of his countrymen. How could these difficulties be overcome? These and other difficulties have hitherto confronted the path of the Congress. But taking full note of these drawbacks and difficulties the journal is led to doubt if all that should have been done, has been even attempted in the direction of making the Congress a really representative assembly, which it certainly ought to be.

The want of this commodity in camp, while it saps the very vitality of the movement, makes political hypocrites of all. But so far there has, indeed, been precious little done or said for the rectification of this evil in the Congress camp. The want of reality in the Congress work cannot indeed fail to painfully impress those who may come to know anything of the way the Congress delegates are elected, Congress speakers are selected, and Congress work is done throughout the rest of the year.

Can anybody tell why the Congress which cried itself hoarse over the necessity of making the Legislative Councils of the land really representative bodies by the extension of real franchise, should be satisfied, in its own case, with election which oftener than not confines itself within the four walls of local Bar Libraries and political associations, the latter, in most cases, more dead than alive? What can be said in explanation of the fact that even the educated section of the community takes practically little or almost no interest



in the election of those who are delegated to represent them in the great representative assembly of the nation? So long as all do not learn to think truly, feel sincerely, and speak accordingly as they really think and feel, there cannot be that genuineness in the Congress work which alone can create a holy enthusiasm in the land that will be catching. And it is thus and perhaps thus alone that the whole nation can be at one, notwithstanding drawbacks and differences.

1856. The *Amrita Basar Patrika* writes that everyone who knows Sir A.

An independent enquiry into the Jagatshi riot case.

Earle expected that the prayers for an open and independent enquiry into the alleged harrowing details in connection with the Jagatshi *Asram*

riot case would not go in vain. The journal is, therefore, not at all surprised to learn from the Shillong telegram that His Honour has directed a "full and open investigation in regard to the events connected with the case." It is hoped that the enquiry will not be confined to the facts elicited in the course of the trial only—i.e., the occurrences of the 6th of July—but that it will extend to those of the 8th July as well. For, as has been repeatedly urged, the enquiry is urgently called for, not only in the interests of the parties concerned but of the fair name of the administration itself. It would be idle to deny that the confidence of the people has been rudely shaken by the humanity-staggering allegations openly made in connection with this unhappy and tragic affair. That being so, the restoration of that confidence is at least as important as the redress of individual wrongs, if not more so. A good deal will also depend on the *personnel* of the Commission of Enquiry. It is well known how the best of intentions of the high authorities in cases like these are often frustrated by the bias or want of tact and sympathy of those actually conducting the enquiry. The paper hopes, therefore, that Sir A. Earle will be pleased to make his selection of its members in such a way that the object of the enquiry is not defeated by any such wrong or regrettable attitude on the part of the latter.

1857. Referring to the official *communiqué* published about the Raja of

The Raja of Narajole's apology to Government.

Narajole having submitted "a complete apology to Government for his participation in the disloyal

movement in Midnapore," the *Bengalee* remarks that it involves issues which need a little clearing up. In the first place, it is necessary to enquire why the apology, if any was called for, should have been made such a long time after the events to which it relates had taken place. A delay of this kind would under ordinary circumstances raise a presumption in the minds of all who know the state of things in this country that the apology might not, after all, be entirely spontaneous. In the present case it is not known how the apology has been obtained, but for the present the journal means to maintain a discreet silence. It need only say that the object of the person or persons who may have interested themselves to obtain the apology was evidently to strengthen Mr. Justice Woodroffe's judgment. The paper does not, for a moment, suggest that the Government had anything to do with the matter, but there are many things which official underlings can do in this country which official underlings in no other country would or could do. And, secondly, the paper should like to know who is responsible for the phrase "disloyal movement in Midnapore" which occurs in the *communiqué*. If it is the Under-Secretary, it desires to point out with the utmost emphasis that the use of this phrase with reference to a movement which has never been judicially proved to have been disloyal and in connection with which not a single person has so far been convicted of an offence against the State or, indeed, of any offence is neither fair nor just and is certainly open to the gravest exception. It also constitutes a serious reflection upon the police and the executive authorities, whose business it is to secure the conviction of persons participating in a disloyal movement by proving their guilt. In point of fact the whole body of incidents connected with the movement was subjected to the closest judicial scrutiny, with the result that the charge of conspiracy or sedition could not be brought home to a single individual. If the phrase was used by the Raja of Narajole, he had no business and no right to use it. Indian noblemen must, indeed, remember that if they want to retain their place in the esteem and the affections of the people, they must behave like noblemen and must not make irresponsible statements. If the Raja had

AMRITA BASAR  
PATRIKA,  
17th Dec. 1912.

BENGALUR,  
20th Dec. 1912.



himself done anything for which he thought an apology was needed, he was welcome to submit an apology; but a disloyal movement cannot be constituted by the acts of a single individual, and the Raja had no right to insinuate that others besides himself were involved in "a disloyal movement." Apart from outward acts, which in the present case have never been shown to have been disloyal or seditious, disloyalty would be a matter of intention, and an individual can only speak of his own intention. And here also the paper is constrained to hold that the Government ought not to have lent its own name and authority to the use of the phrase even if the Raja of Narajole had used it in his letter of apology. Nor is the fact to be overlooked in this connection that the Raja on his own confession, made certain reckless statements. What guarantee is there that he is not making an equally reckless statement in the present case?

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The 21st December 1912.